

WEST COAST ESTUARIES INITIATIVE – CALIFORNIA COAST PROGRESS REPORT – NOVEMBER 2008

The West Coast Estuaries Initiative for the California Coast (WCEI-CA) is a focused effort under the U.S. EPA Targeted Watershed Grant Program to advance successful partnerships that conserve, restore and protect the water quality, habitat and environment of California coastal waters, estuaries, bays and near shore waters. Congress appropriated funds for this competitive grant program in 2007 (\$2.5m) and 2008 (\$5m) to be administered by U.S. EPA Region 9.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Between the 2007 and 2008 WCEI-CA Requests for Proposals, 33 applications were received requesting over \$23m indicating a high level of interest and need. The proposals address a wide range of priority coastal resource issues including: wetland restoration, habitat enhancement, green infrastructure and water quality improvement.
- Nine projects were chosen based on their ranking in the competitive selection process that emphasized environmental significance and results. All nine project sponsors match federal funds by contributing at least 25% of the total project amount. The nine selected projects also leverage an additional \$11,000,000.
- The 2007 projects (the first four projects listed below) have already been initiated; the 2008 projects (the last five below) will begin by February 2009. The project list below and the attached map show the geographic distribution of the projects from north to south along the California coast.

SELECTED PROJECTS

Restoration of Off-Estuary Wetland and Stream Habitats of Waukell Creek, Klamath River (Yurok Tribal Fisheries Program) \$547,832 (Federal share \$493,000) *Location: Tributary to the Lower Klamath River, North Coast*

Mattole River Estuary Conservation Initiative (Mattole Salmon Group) \$2,325,242 (Federal share - \$958,435) *Location: Humboldt/Mendocino Counties/Lost Coast*

Green Infill - Clean Stormwater (Association of Bay Area Governments/ SFEP) \$3,461,995 (Federal Share-\$996,495) *Location: San Francisco Bay*

Lower Carmel River Floodplain Restoration Project (Big Sur Land Trust) \$2,992,000 (Federal share - \$992,000) *Location: Carmel Bay/Monterey County*

San Gregorio Creek Watershed: Filling Critical Flow Needs (American Rivers) \$589,646 (Federal share - \$441,146) *Location: Coastal San Mateo County*

Transforming Inflows to the Elkhorn Estuary: Lower Carneros Creek Wetland Restoration (Agriculture and Land-Based Training Association) \$1,459,962 (Federal share - \$999,962) *Location: Monterey Bay*

Moro Cojo Slough Restoration and Management Plan Implementation (Moss Landing Marine Labs, San Jose State University) \$360,847 (Federal share - \$267,347) *Location: Monterey Bay*

South San Diego Bay Coastal Wetland Restoration and Enhancement (San Diego Unified Port District) \$2,229,043 (Federal share - \$1,000,000) *Location: South San Diego County/Port of San Diego*

Tijuana River Watershed: Water Quality Improvement and Community Outreach Project (Southwest Wetlands Interpretive Association) \$1,799,297 (Federal share - \$990,898) *Location: U.S.-Mexico Border/South San Diego County*



FOR MORE INFORMATION

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<http://www.epa.gov/region09/water/watershed/funding.html>

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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 9

